

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

April 7, 2009; 4:15PM
General Services Department
Combined Operations and Maintenance Facility
311 North State Street

Meeting Minutes

Present: Councilor Keith Nyhan, Chair, Greg Banks, Councilor Liz Blanchard, Melanie Doiron, Councilor Fred Keach, Councilor Dick Lemieux, Paula Mattis, Mike Russell, Councilor William Stetson

Staff: Chip Chesley, Bob McManus, Pat Winn

Guests: Liz Bedard and Elaine Kellerman

Excused: Matt Cashman, Councilor Rob Werner, and Jeff Myers

General

The meeting was convened at 4:15 PM by Councilor Nyhan. Councilor Nyhan noted that Matt Cashman will be joining the committee but could not attend tonight's meeting.

Review and Approve Minutes

Councilor Stetson moved to approve the minutes of January 27th; Councilor Keach seconded the motion. The motion carried. Councilor Nyhan noted that notes were prepared for the last meeting of March 24 since a quorum was not present. He asked if there were any corrections to the meeting notes. None were suggested.

Committee Membership

Keith reported that Arthur Aznive and Terry Clarkson will be recommended to City Council at their April 13th meeting to be appointed to the committee; both would represent the DTSWRD. Keith discussed the possibility of moving the meeting day. Committee thought Tuesdays were fine.

Education/Communication Plan

Chip distributed 'PAYT Campaign Schedule' noting the launch date of July 6, 2009. He highlighted the education items the committee may wish to focus their attention. Bob McManus noted the utility bill insert reaches about 90% of Concord's households. An important part of the message is that folks who bring their trash to the curb (about 75% of the City's residents) will need to use the PAYT bags. Residents who live in large multi-families that bring their waste to a dumpster do not since those property owners will be billed directly. It was agreed that the timing of the message is important, and needs to be.

Melanie inquired about bulk items. Bob noted that the City's contract with our vendor does include a provision where residents may hire the contractor directly for bulk item collection and disposal.

Greg Banks inquired about small business cart customers. It was agreed a letter should be forwarded to these customers noting that they do not need to use the PAYT bags.

Bill Stetson encouraged the staff to continue to discuss grant opportunities with New Hampshire the Beautiful. It was noted that the first priority may be additional bins for multi-family residents. Keith recommended including funds in the proposed budget for additional bins.

Liz Bedard discussed branding of the PAYT program and shared with the committee several proposed logos for Concord. The logo would be used on printed material and the web site. Bob noted the logo may not work well on the bag. He discussed bag printing; it may cost less to have the bag printed diagonally. The committee elected to use the option with the Concord Coach and the phrase Recycle and Save. After the discussion of the logo and the communication effort, Liz Bedard excused herself from the meeting.

Other Business

Melanie Doiron asked why the State has to go over the scale when bringing in recycling. Pat said the transfer station is trying to track how much commercial recycling is coming into the facility.

Chip discussed schools. He is meeting with Donna Reardon. Keith will try to make the meeting tomorrow morning and suggested that we find out what the schools can do for us.

Keith noted the issues regarding the Downtown Solid Waste Removal District should remain as pending until the new members join the committee.

Co-op Single Stream Recycling Facility

Chip updated the committee on the status of the Co-op's plans to construct a single stream recycling facility on Whitney Road in Concord. He noted they have a permit application submitted to the NH Department of Environmental Services and is proceeding through local Planning Board review. A planning board hearing is scheduled for April 15th. City staff has reviewed the site plans and finds that they are substantially complete.

Chip discussed the facility will need to receive recycling material from communities and locations outside of the Co-op in order to be financially feasible. It has been reported that the facility operated by Cochran Environmental in Manchester may have filed for bankruptcy. Chip noted the Co-op has stated they need about 25,000 tons of base load material to support the facility. They believe they may have commitments of about 17,000 tons from around the state. Chip explained the relationship between the Co-op and other towns. He noted their next major milestone will be for the Joint Board to authorize funding construction of the facility. The Co-op may be considering this vote in May or June of this year. Chip said the contract between the Co-op and the towns is on-going without an expiration date. A short discussion of recycling prices followed.

Next meeting is two weeks from today, April 21st 2009.
Topics should include education, and concept of the DTSWRD.